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Directorate of Intelligence

Africa Review

27 August 1993

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Brief

Tanzania: Mwinyi Seeking Expanded African Role

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Africa

Brief

Tanzania

Mwinyi Seeking Expanded African Role [redacted]

Dar es Salaam's successful mediation of the Rwandan peace accord and offer to send peacekeepers to Liberia suggest that President Mwinyi is seeking to raise his stature as an African leader and deflect allegations from ruling party rivals that he is weak and indecisive. He personally played a key role in mediating the peace accord signed by Rwanda's warring parties on 4 August. Mwinyi is considering sending as many as 1,000 troops to Liberia as part of an expanded peacekeeping effort there under UN and OAU auspices, although only if Dar es Salaam receives international assistance to transport and maintain the force. [redacted]

Mwinyi's position as party leader and President has come under pressure following the uproar stirred by Zanzibar's entrance into the Organization of Islamic Conference late last year. Zanzibar's move increased Christian-Muslim tensions, resurfacing past concerns about the future of the union between the country's offshore islands and the mainland. [redacted] By seeking a modestly expanded regional role for Tanzania, we believe Mwinyi hopes to solidify his domestic political base. In our view, however, his strategy is unlikely to improve significantly his standing within the party as long as domestic political troubles remain at center-stage.

[redacted]

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